

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Clerk:

The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to consider SB 1027 on Wednesday, which would prevent registered sex offenders from working at or volunteering for "an organizations that works with individuals who are less than 18 of age or victims of sexual assault". I urge you to oppose this legislation.

This bill is a response to the disclosure that three people on the Sex Offender Registry were volunteering at a Lansing sexual assault crisis hotline organization. However, as you see, the response to this situation goes far beyond it. A more reasonable bill would be one that restricts organizations from employing, or using as volunteers, people who are on the Sex Offender Registry to counsel victims of sexual assault.

The current bill will make it illegal for people on the Registry to work or volunteer at most organizations in Michigan. As examples, they could not work at McDonalds because there are customers less than 18, or they could not usher at their church because there are both attendees less than 18 and sexual assault victims.

The numerous restrictions we have placed on the daily lives of sex offenders after they have served their time, actually can cause people to return to crime and make them less stable mentally. Instead, we should be reintegrating people in to society. Companies need workers, the state needs taxes, ex-cons need jobs, and the community needs people to be actively engaged in contributing to it.

Sex offenders have one of the lowest recidivism rates of any crime type. Michigan's Registry is overly-broad. It contains over 40,000 people, the 4th highest state for percentage of its population on a Registry. The majority of Michigan Registrants are on lifetime registry. There are people on Michigan's Sex Offender Registry whose offenses were not sexual and whose records have been expunged.

I would like my legislature to enact reasonable laws and are concerned about all of our citizens.

Kathie D. Gourlay
12665 McKinley Heights Ct.
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

(313) 268-6537
gourlay222@gmail.com